Lovely Strange Dark
CHIYOKO CHOCOLAT
BY KUJIRA
CHAPTER 2
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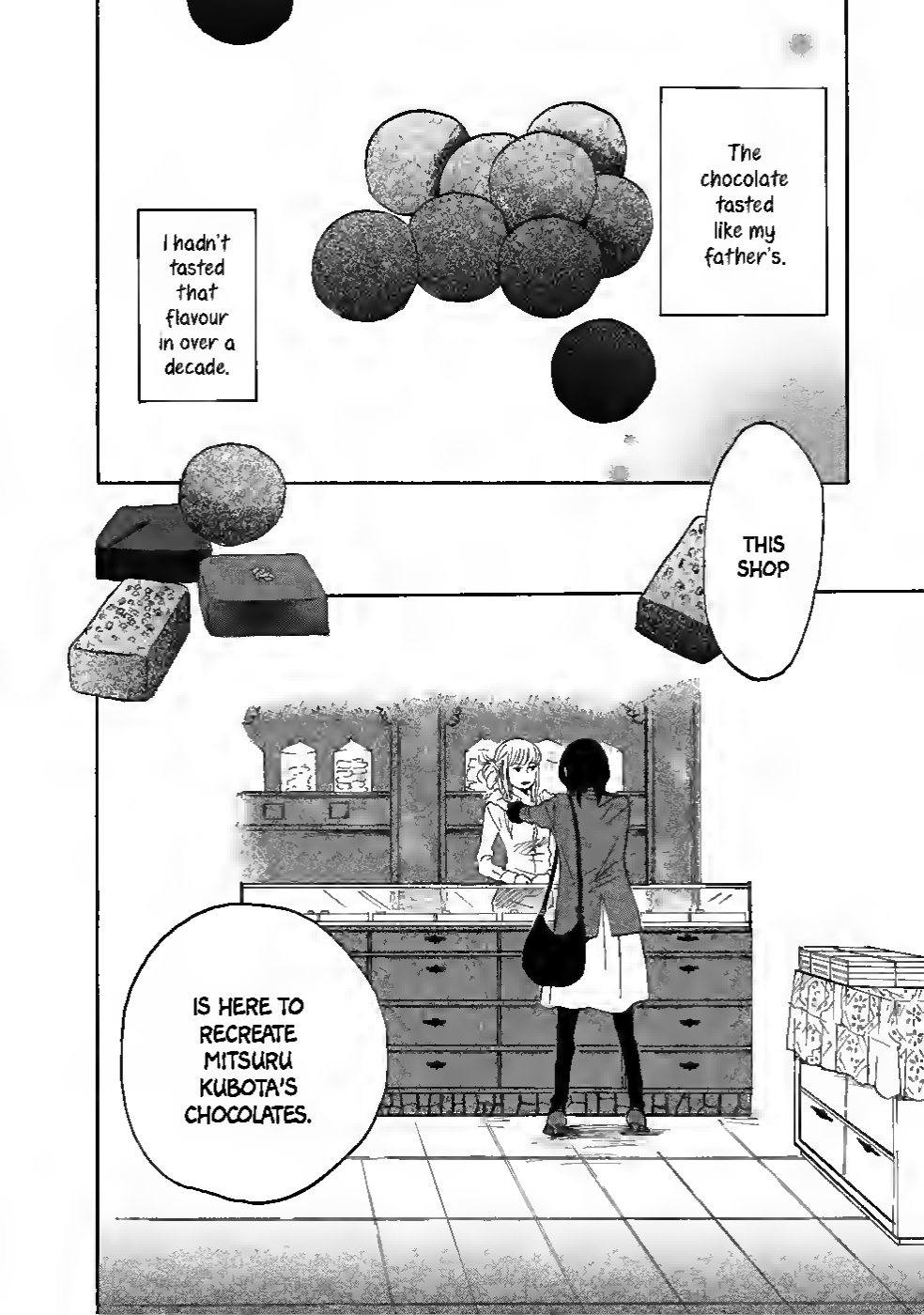
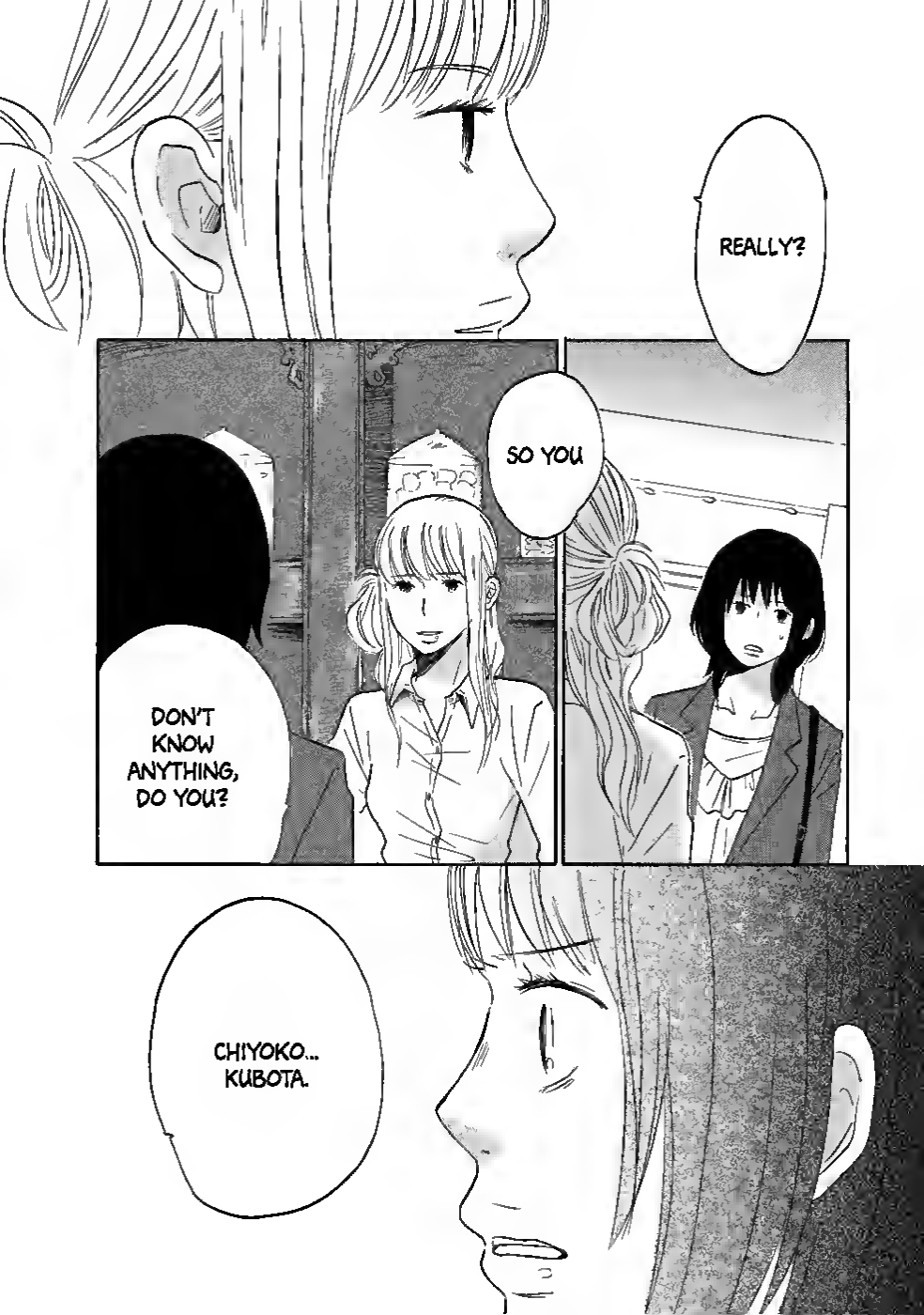
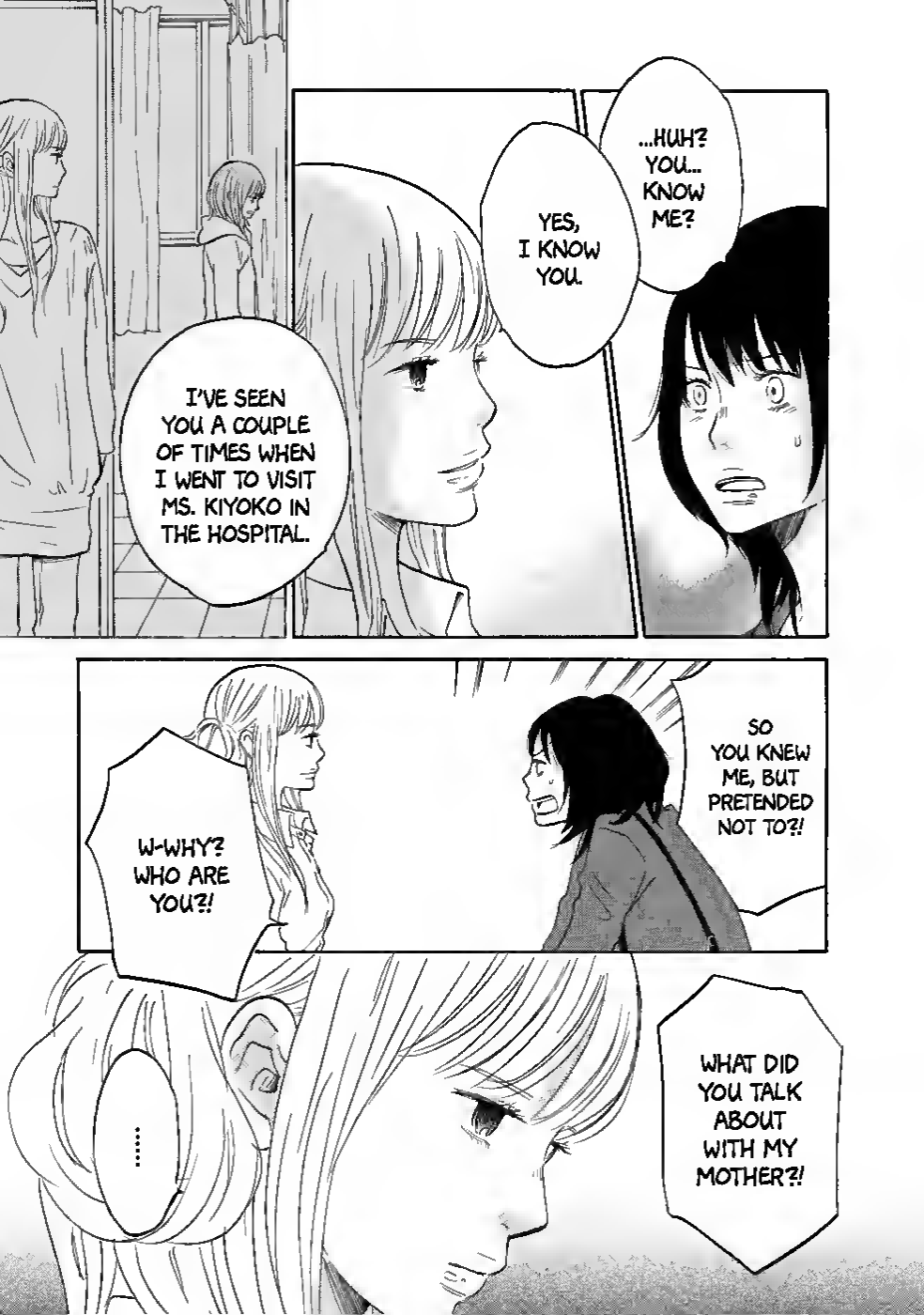
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

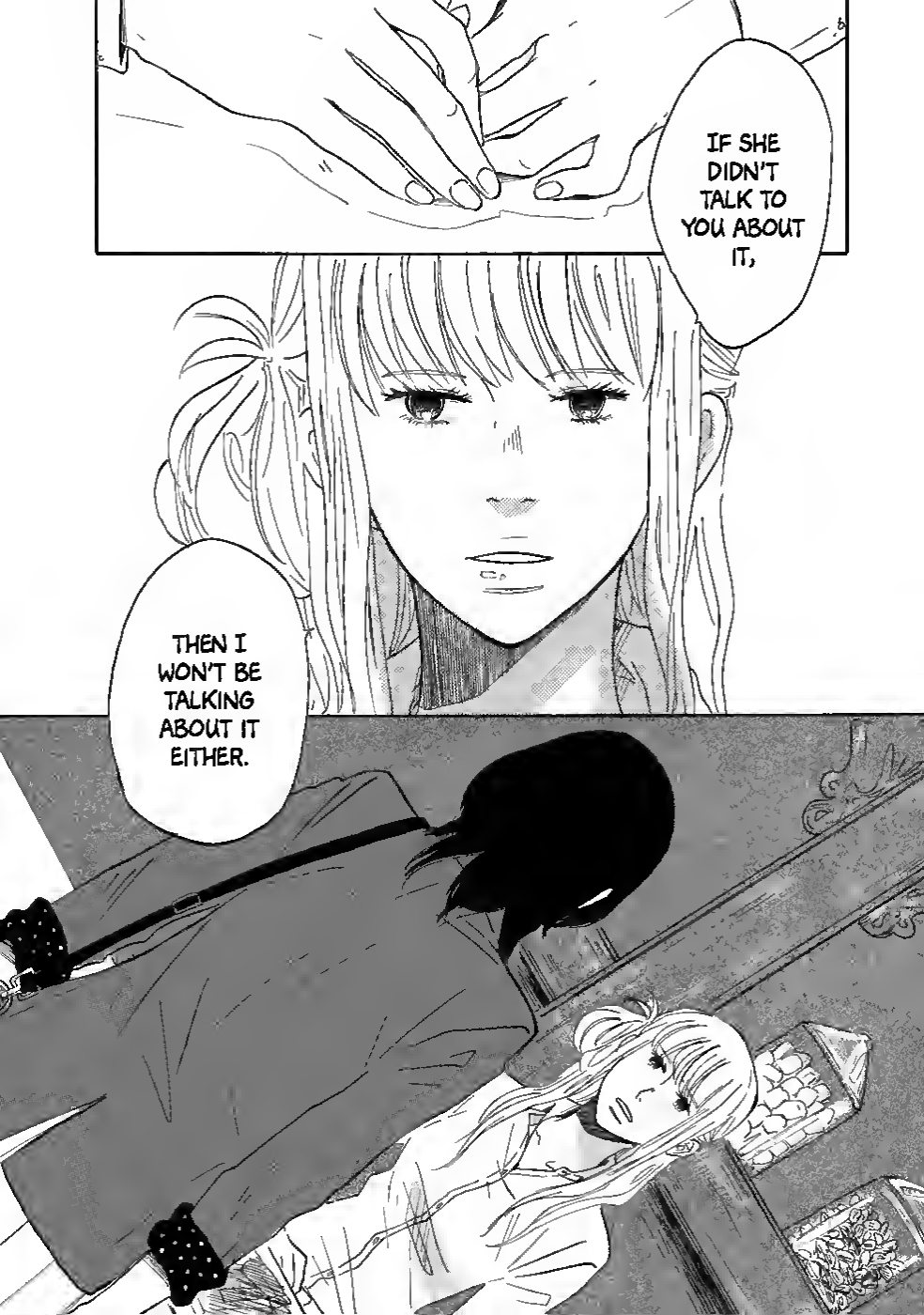
RECIPE 2


I hadn't tasted that flavour in over a decade.
The chocolate tasted like my father's.
THIS SHOP
IS HERE TO RECREATE MITSURU KUBOTA'S CHOCOLATES.

WH...
WHAT FOR...?


REALLY?
SO YOU
DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?
CHIYOKO... KUBOTA.


...HUH? YOU... KNOW ME?
YES, I KNOW YOU.
I'VE SEEN YOU A COUPLE OF TIMES WHEN I WENT TO VISIT MS. KIYOKO IN THE HOSPITAL.
SO YOU KNEW ME, BUT PRETENDED NOT TO?!
W-WHY? WHO ARE YOU?!
WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT WITH MY MOTHER?!
.....


IF SHE DIDN'T TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT,
THEN I WON'T BE TALKING ABOUT IT EITHER.

WHAT THE HELL...
WHY NOT?
ANSWER ME!
AND THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD!!
THEY WERE MY PARENTS, SO IT'S WELL IN MY RIGHTS TO KNOW, RIGHT?!
WHY DID MUM OPEN THIS CAFE AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME?

WHY DO YOU WANT TO RECREATE DAD'S CHOCOLATES?!
WHY DID HE LEAVE
AND WHO'S MAKING THEM...?
IS IT MY DAD?!
IS HE ALIVE?!
MY MUM AND ME?!

ANSWER ME!!
HAA
HAA
HAA
...LIKE I SAID,
I CAN'T ANSWER YOU.
BUT WHY NOT?!
PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE

DID YOU EVER TRY TO LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR MOTHER WAS TRYING TO SAY?
DID YOU EVER TRY TO COMPRO-MISE?
...I DID.
BECAUSE YOU KEEP ASKING "WHY" WITHOUT TAKING THE TIME TO LISTEN TO ANYONE.
SHE THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND.

No matter how much I walked towards my mother,
she just kept moving further away.
YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING...
NEITHER DO YOU.
.....

ARE YOU STILL OPEN?
YES.
COME ON IN!
...THANK YOU FOR STOPPING BY.
OH MY! THERE ARE SO MANY IT'S HARD TO CHOOSE.
PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME.
OH, RIGHT.
HMM...

...WHAT?
MY NAME IS CHIYOKO OKABAYASHI.
THERE IS ONE THING I CAN ANSWER.
SAME FIRST NAME! I HOPE WE CAN BE FRIENDS.
NO THANKS!
SLAM

NO WAY.
Step
DEFI-NITELY NOT.
HAA
HAA
THE SMELL OF CACAO IS STIFLING.
THE SMELL OF DAD.
THE SMELL OF MUM.

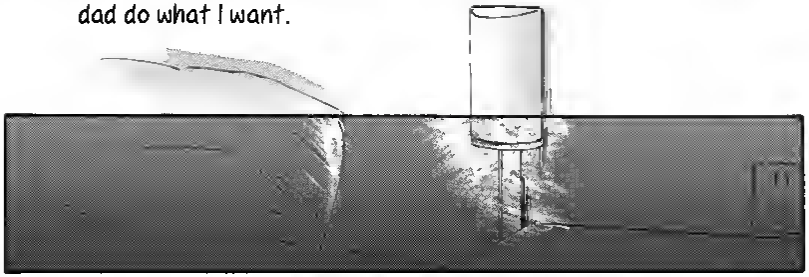
THE SMELL OF THAT WOMAN.
She kept going further,
I HAVE TO ERASE IT.
so I got tired and stopped walking.
I HAVE TO ERASE IT.
Tap

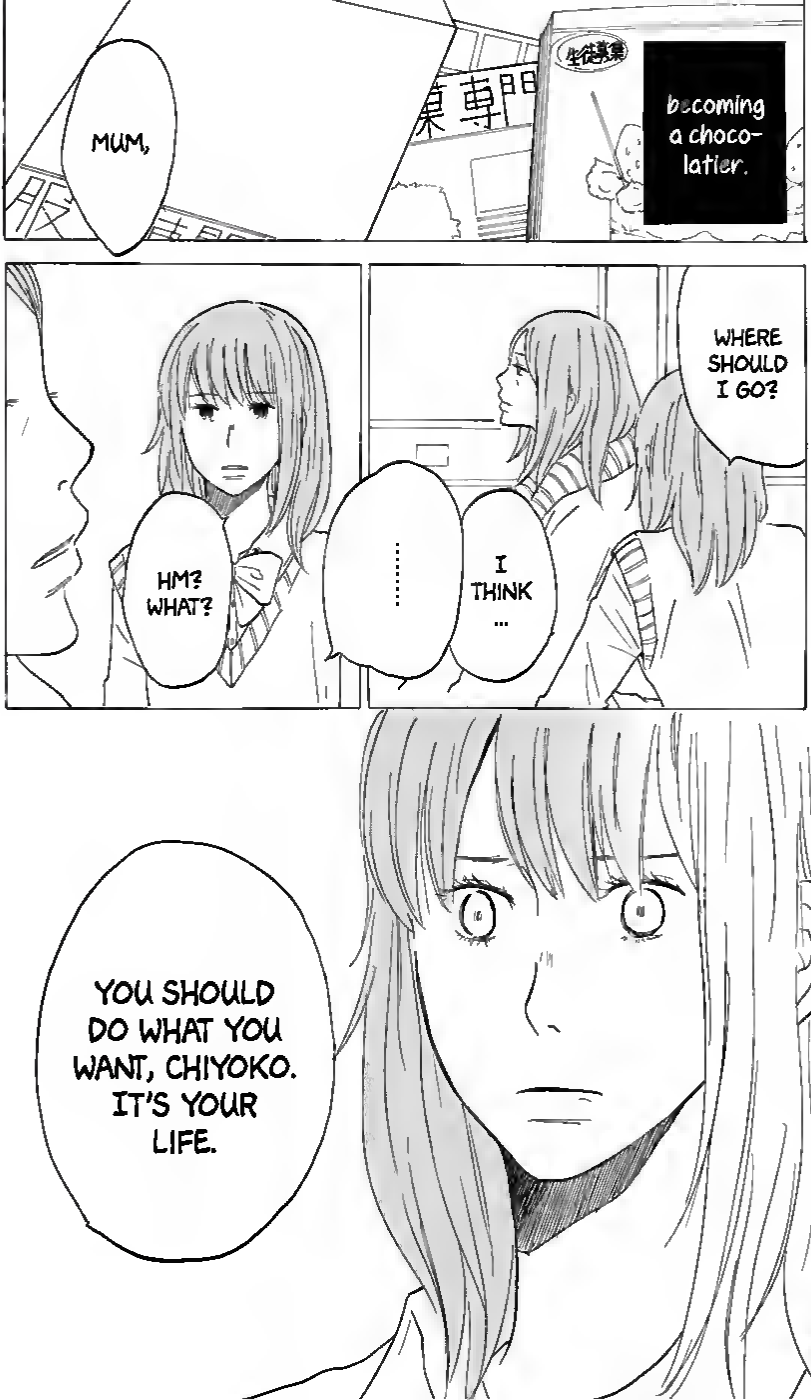
!
STUMBLE
I can't stand still.
WHOA!
Somewhere deep inside me,
that hot chocolate

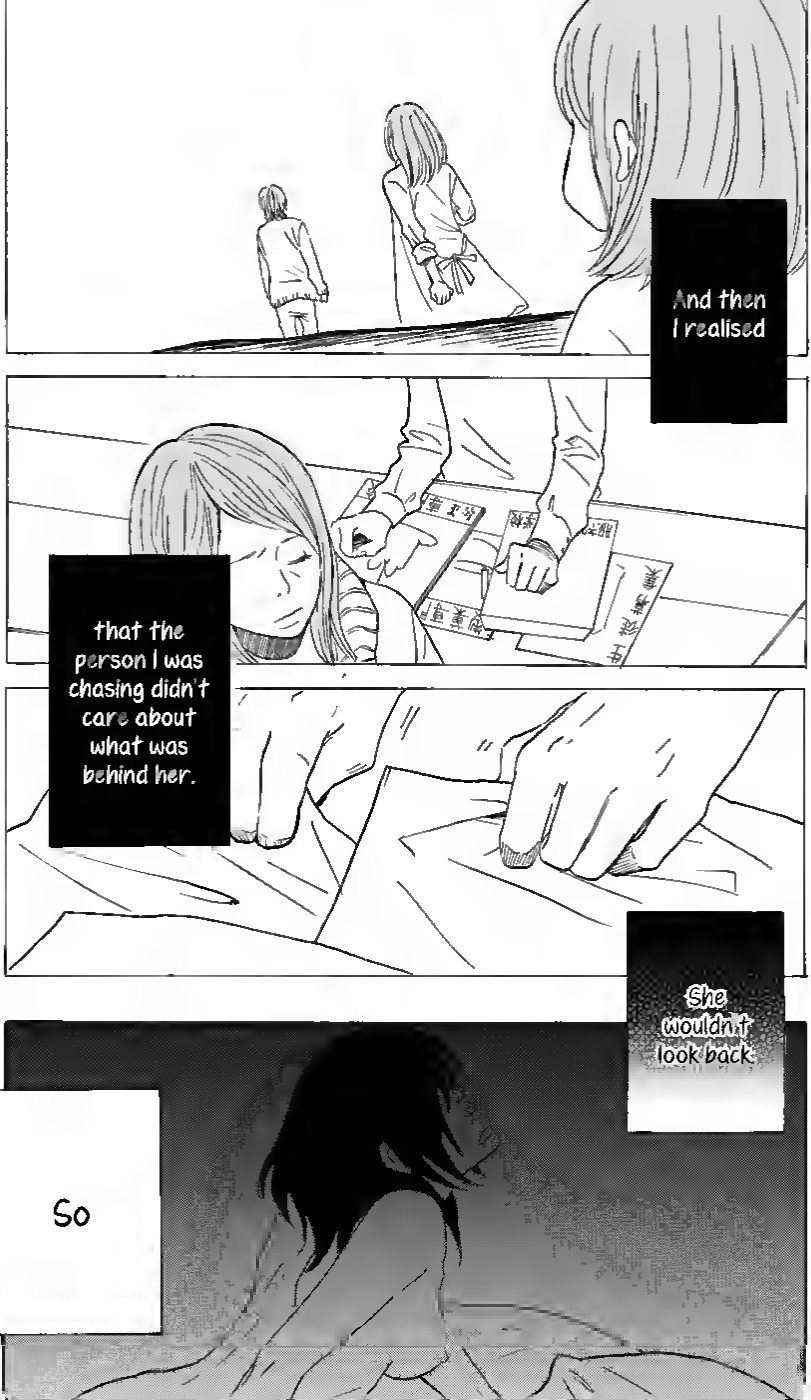
is still all over the floor.
Okumura Stationery
...I CAN'T TODAY.
WELL, MY KID'S HAD A FEVER SINCE THIS MORNING. SO, YOU KNOW, IT'S JUST NOT...
WHY NOT?

BUT YOUR WIFE IS AT HOME, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT...
THEN IT'S FINE.
UH...
DON'T BE SELFISH, KUBOTA.
I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU.
HEY, MR. OGATA, I THINK I HAVE A FEVER TOO.
KUBOTA.
I DON'T THINK IT'LL GET BETTER UNLESS I'M WITH YOU.

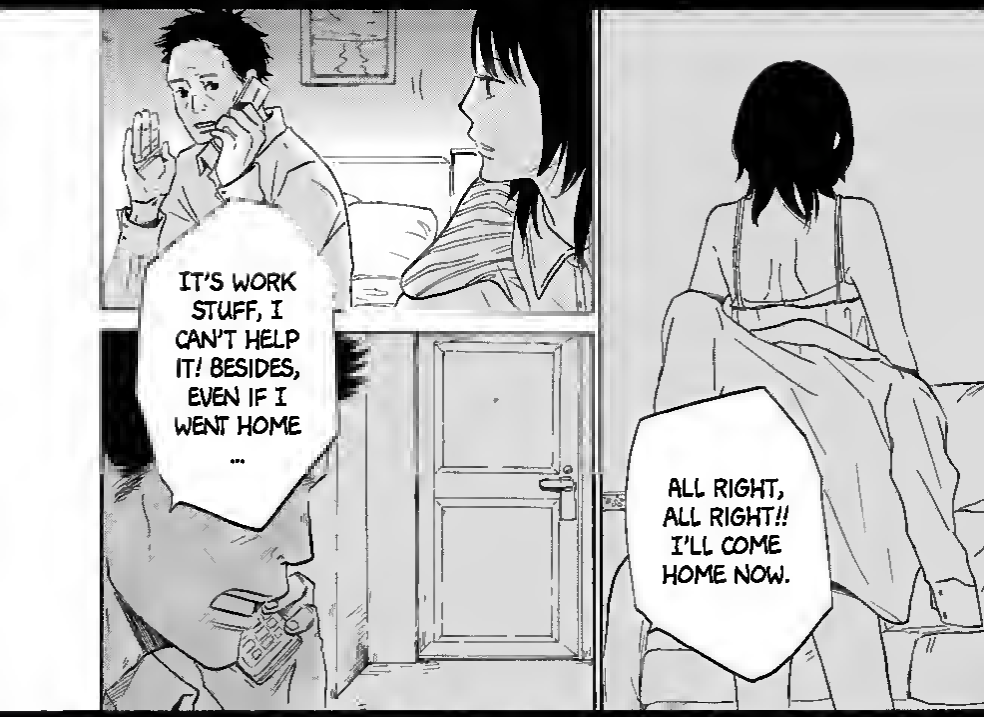
It's so easy to make your dad do what I want.



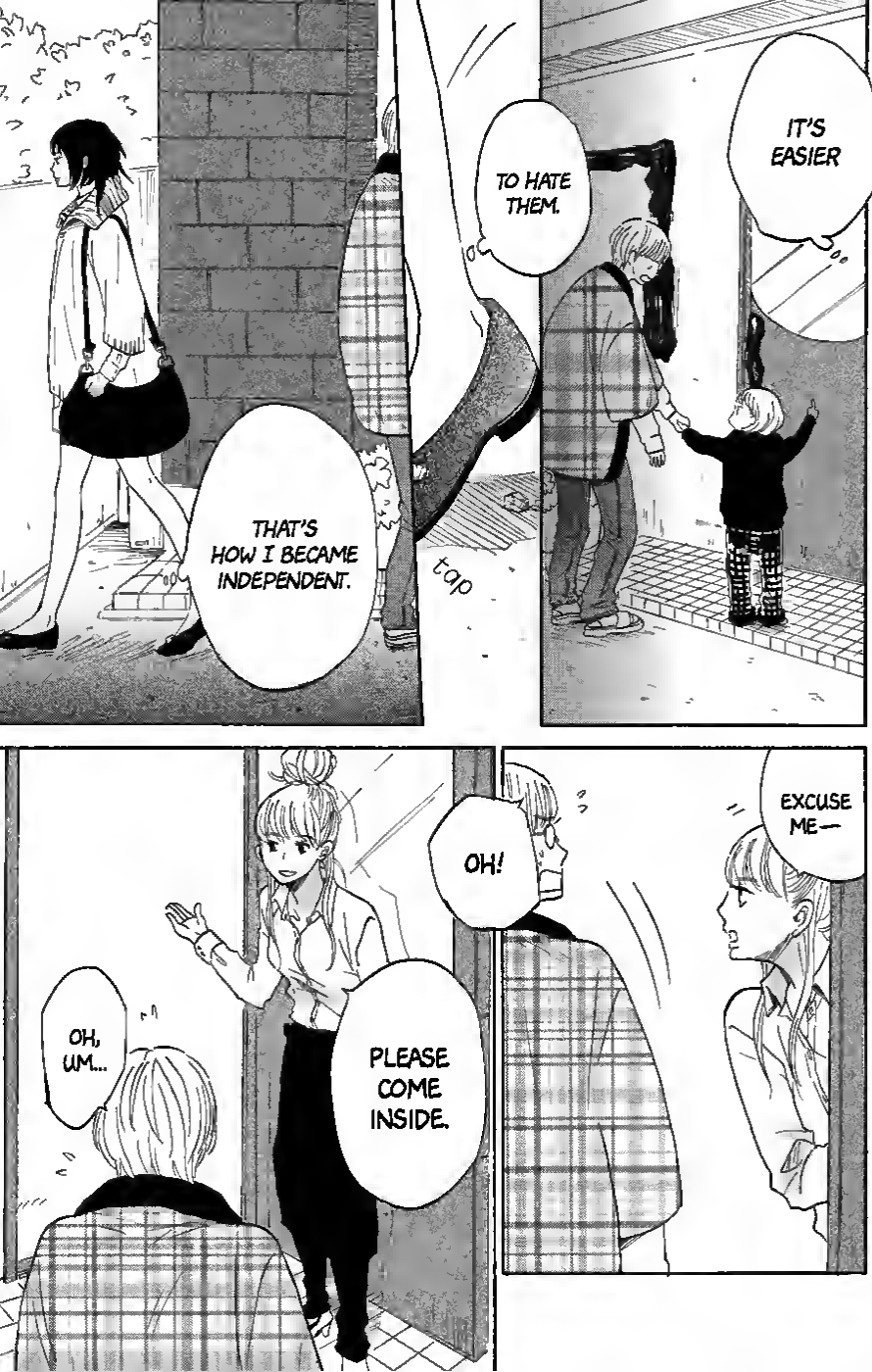

MUM,
becoming a choco-latier.
WHERE SHOULD I GO?
I THINK ...
.....
HM? WHAT?
YOU SHOULD DO WHAT YOU WANT, CHIYOKO. IT'S YOUR LIFE.


And then I realised
that the person I was chasing didn't care about what was behind her.
She wouldn't look back
So

I went out to find someone who would look at me.



Even if I don't love him.


THAT'S HOW I BECAME INDEPENDENT.
tap
TO HATE THEM.
IT'S EASIER
EXCUSE ME—
OH!
PLEASE COME INSIDE.
OH, UM...

SORRY!
OH.
SHE WON'T BE STOPPING BY TODAY, HUH.
THAT CHIYOKO.